

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 02954 030006Z

ACTION MMO-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4159

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 2954

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECRP, BB, GJ, DO, XL

SUBJ: CERP 002 - RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

REF: STATE 249989

1. INFORMATION FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF DATA AVAILABLE FROM ISLANDS OR ISLAND GROUPS FOR WHICH EMBASSY BRIDGETOWN HAS USG RESPONSIBILITY. ANY LACK OF REFERENCE TO A PARTICULAR ISLAND IS MEANT TO INDICATE NO INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE SUBJECT OF THIS REPORT OR THAT NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE.

2. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS DURING 1977. BARBADOS ESTABLISHED FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA, ROMANIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND YUGOSLAVIA. THE GOB CONTINUED RELATIONS WITH CUBA. GRENADA MAINTAINS NO DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

3. COMMERCIAL LINKS: THE GOB HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING FIGURES FOR 1976 BARBADOS IMPORTS FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES (IN US DOLLARS):

CZECHOSLOVAKIA	392,000
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YUGOSLAVIA	10,000
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ROMANIA	15,000
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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRIDGE 02954 030006Z

SOVIET UNION	37,000
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HUNGARY	46,000
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POLAND	101,000
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PEOPLE REPUBLIC OF

CHINA (PRC)	715,000
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IMPORTS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA INCLUDE SKODA AUTOMOBILES;

THOSE FROM POLAND INCLUDE POLSKI FIATS. ALL OTHER IMPORTS ARE MIXED MANUFACTURES, MACHINERY AND SOME FOODSTUFFS. WHILE NO FIGURES ARE GIVEN FOR CUBA, BARBADOS HAS IMPORTED 180,000 TONS OF CEMENT FROM CUBA SO FAR IN 1977. ASIDE FROM A TOKEN 50 DOLLARS OF EXPORTS TO THE PRC, BARBADOS HAS NO RECORDED EXPORTS TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. THE ASSOCIATED STATE OF DOMINICA IS ALSO RECEIVING REGULAR SHIPMENTS OF CEMENT FROM CUBA UNDER A SIX-MONTH AGREEMENT SIGNED IN OCTOBER. THE LATEST 10,000 BAG SHIPMENT ARRIVED AT ROSEAU NOVEMBER 14. THE 110 POUND BAGS WILL BE SOLD AT BETWEEN US \$3.60 AND US \$4.00 PER BAG WHILE THE DOMINICA CEMENT COMPANY CURRENTLY SELLS A 94-POUND BAG FOR US\$4.00. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMPORTER, J. ASTAPHAN AND CO., SAYS THE CEMENT AGREEMENT WILL BE EXTENDED FOR SIX MORE MONTHS FROM MARCH 1978. IT IS UNLIKELY THERE IS ANY OTHER SIGNIFICANT COMMUNIST TRADE IN THE AREA.

4. CUBANA AIRLINES CONTINUES SCHEDULED AND UNSCHEDULED SERVICE THROUGH BARBADOS TO AND FROM GUYANA AND UNSPECIFIED AFRICAN POINTS. REPORTING FROM OTHER SOURCES IS ADEQUATE IN DETAILING THE NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL DETAILS OF THESE FLIGHTS.

5. UNOFFICIAL CONTACTS. CERTAIN POLITICAL GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN HAVE TRAVELED TO CUBA ON EXCHANGE VISITS IN 1977. MORE NOTEWORTHY ARE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRIDGE 02954 030006Z

UNCONFIRMED INDICATIONS THAT CUBA IS GIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE ELECTED OPPOSITION IN GRENADA, THE NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT; TO DOMINICAN RADICAL ROSIE DOUGLAS; AND TO YOULIMO (YOULOU LIBERATION MOVEMENT), A MARXIST FRINGE GROUP IN ST. VINCENT. VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS FROM THESE THREE GROUPS ARE AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE TRAVELED TO CUBA IN 1977. CUBA AS A HOST TO SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS (SUGAR, LAW, ETC.) HAS ALSO ATTRACTED VISITS FROM CERTAIN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES. CUBA SENT A DELEGATE TO THE REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE IN BARBADOS IN SEPTEMBER. THERE IS ALSO EVIDENCE THAT NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT MEMBERS MEET WITH OFFICERS AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN WHEN ON TRIPS TO GUYANA.

6. TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE EMBASSY, THERE ARE NO COMMUNIST COUNTRY AID, MILITARY ASSISTANCE OR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMS OR SPECIAL PROJECTS IN THE TEN ISLANDS OR ISLAND GROUPS IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN.

7. COMMENT: GOB ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC FULFILLED A CAMPAIGN PLEDGE MADE BY

THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY (BLP) BEFORE THE 1976 ELECTIONS
TO BRING A REALISTIC APPROACH TO GOB FOREIGN POLICY.
ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES COINCIDES WITH EXTENSION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS
WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN GENERAL (RELATIONS HAVE ALSO
BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH TURKEY, LUXEMBOURG AND FINLAND,
FOR EXAMPLE). BARBADOS HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CANADA IS
ACCREDITED TO CUBA ON A NON-RESIDENT BASIS BUT THERE HAS
BEEN NO DESIGNATION OF A CUBAN REPRESENTATIVE TO BARBADOS.
NO REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED WITH THE PRC
OR EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, NOR DOES BARBADOS PLAN
TO ALLOW THE OPENING OF MISSIONS IN BARBADOS BY COMMU-
NIST COUNTRIES. OFFICIAL CONTACTS WILL PROBABLY
CONTINUE TO BE PRIMARILY AT THE U.N. THE LOW LEVEL OF
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PAGE 04 BRIDGE 02954 030006Z

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY BETWEEN THE REGION AND COMMUNIST
COUNTRIES IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE.
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